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Between the Lines

Role of Secret 'Special Group C.I.'

By

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Washington — One of the most controversial subjects in official circles nowadays is that of "counterinsurgency." Much is heard for and against it behind the scenes. The program involves the entire scope of actions—military, police, economic and psychological—taken to aid existing governments against operations by an organized opposition.



Miss Roosevelt

Obviously, when the Free World is confronted by a Communist enemy using every type of action from a hand grenade tossed by a guerilla to handbills distributed by trained agitators, appropriate counteractions are needed at this lower spectrum of violence. The point of departure lies, however, in the matter of which foreign political groups and which governments are to be supported under such a counterinsurgency program. Though the counterinsurgency program is submerged under layers of documents stamped "secret" this correspondent has discovered some clues to its operations.

Chaired by Harriman

Responsibility for counterinsurgency doctrine and actions at the White House level rests with the Special Group C.I. (for counterinsurgency) chaired by Averell Harriman. The other members of the C.I.

General Robert F. Kennedy, Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance; General Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President, National Security Affairs; David E. Bell, head of the Agency for International Development (AID); Michael V. Forrestal, personal representative of the President; and Carl Rowan, head of the U. S. Information Service.

A number of these individuals are not especially known for their anti-Communist efforts.

Seen from the vantage point of officials more immediately involved in the program in Washington, the list sounds convincing. One of the newer programs is the International Police Academy here in the District which graduated its first class in the senior course on Feb. 28, 1964.

Mission of Academy

The purpose of the academy, dramatically depicted in a fine training film, is to train at a central location police in less developed countries in ways to cope with riot and subversion. The program operates under the Office of Public Safety, AID, in the State Department. Byron Engle, police administrator in Japan (1946-1950), is director of the program. His agency's staff of 300 people supply training, ad-

forces operating in South American, Asian and African countries.

This correspondent asked Mr. Engle to cite his agency's "successes." He pointed out that the Office of Public Safety had helped the Venezuelan police plan a unified communications system so as to cope with the campaign of organized terrorism waged by the Communists. Certainly, no one can deny that in the recent elections, power passed in an orderly fashion into the hands of Raul Leoni. The theory is that the police are shown how to nip potential riots and disturbances in the bud. An NBC

broadcast by Ed Arno from Bolivia, after student rampages in May and June, would appear to confirm the role of the police in keeping order without bloodshed.

Some 'Sore' Points

However, the training of police under Marxist Sukarno, of Indonesia, is a sore point with some members of Congress. Furthermore, United Arab Republic officers, also trained at the Academy, would presumably be able to cooperate more efficiently in suppressing any revolt against "neutralist" Nasser.

The disturbing question of the direction of the counterinsurgency program would also apply to the "civic action" program operated by the Pentagon. The term "civic action" emphasizes a wide range of projects using indigenous military forces, often aided by U. S. advice and supplies, to help civilians in less developed